

**191—5.33 (510) Credit for reinsurance.**

**5.33(1) Purpose.** The purpose of this rule is to set forth the procedural requirements which the insurance commissioner deems necessary to carry out the provisions of Iowa Code sections 521B.1 to 521B.5. The actions and information required by this rule are hereby declared to be necessary and appropriate to the public interest and for the protection of the ceding insurers in this state.

**5.33(2) Applicability.** This rule shall have no applicability to reinsurance ceded and assumed pursuant to a pooling arrangement among insurers in the same holding company system.

**5.33(3) Reinsurer licensed in this state.** The commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to assuming insurers which were licensed in this state as of the date of the ceding insurer's statutory financial statement.

**5.33(4) Accredited reinsurers.**

*a.* The commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer which is accredited as a reinsurer in this state as of the date of the ceding insurer's statutory financial statement. An accredited reinsurer is one which:

(1) Files a properly executed Form AR-1<sup>1</sup> as evidence of its submission to this state's jurisdiction and to this state's authority to examine its books and records;

(2) Files with the commissioner a certified copy of a letter or a certificate of authority or of compliance as evidence that it is licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in at least one state, or, in the case of a United States branch of an alien assuming insurer, is entered through and licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in at least one state;

(3) Files annually with the commissioner a copy of its annual statement filed with the insurance department of its state of domicile or, in the case of an alien assuming insurer, with the state through which it is entered and in which it is licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance, and a copy of its most recent audited financial statement;

(4) Maintains a surplus as regards policyholders in an amount not less than \$20 million or obtains the affirmative approval of the commissioner upon a finding that the accredited reinsurer has adequate financial capacity to meet its reinsurance obligations and is otherwise qualified to assume reinsurance from domestic insurers.

*b.* If the commissioner determines that the assuming insurer has failed to meet or maintain any of these qualifications, the commissioner may upon written notice and hearing suspend or revoke the accreditation. A domestic ceding insurer shall not be allowed credit under this subrule if the assuming insurer's accreditation has been revoked by the commissioner or if the reinsurance was ceded while the assuming insurer's accreditation was under suspension by the commissioner.

**5.33(5) Reinsurer domiciled and licensed in another state.**

*a.* The commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer which as of the date of the ceding insurer's statutory financial statement:

(1) Is domiciled and licensed in (or, in the case of a United States branch of an alien assuming insurer, is entered through and licensed in) a state which employs standards regarding credit for reinsurance substantially similar to those applicable in this state;

(2) Maintains a surplus as regards policyholders in an amount not less than \$20 million;

(3) Files a properly executed Form AR-1<sup>1</sup> with the commissioner as evidence of its submission to this state's authority to examine its books and records.

*b.* The provisions of this subrule relating to surplus as regards policyholders shall not apply to reinsurance ceded and assumed pursuant to pooling arrangements among insurers in the same holding company system. As used herein, "substantially similar standards" means credit for reinsurance standards which the commissioner determines equal or exceed the standards of this state.

**5.33(6) Reinsurers maintaining trust funds.**

*a.* The commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer which, as of the date of the ceding insurer's statutory financial statement, maintains a trust fund

in an amount prescribed below in a qualified United States financial institution, as determined by the commissioner, for the payment of the valid claims of its United States policyholders and ceding insurers, their assigns and successors in interests. The assuming insurer shall report annually to the commissioner substantially the same information as that required to be reported on the NAIC annual statement form by licensed insurers, to enable the commissioner to determine the sufficiency of the trust fund.

*b.* The following requirements apply to the following categories of assuming insurer:

(1) The trust fund for a single assuming insurer shall consist of funds in trust in an amount not less than the assuming insurer's liabilities attributable to reinsurance ceded by United States domiciled insurers, and in addition, the assuming insurer shall maintain a trustee surplus of not less than \$20 million, except as provided in subparagraph 5.33(6) "b"(4).

(2) The trust fund for a group of individual unincorporated underwriters shall consist of funds in trust in an amount not less than the group's aggregate liabilities attributable to business written in the United States and, in addition, the group shall maintain a trustee surplus of which \$100 million shall be held jointly for the benefit of the United States ceding insurers of any member of the group. The group shall make available to the commissioner annual certifications by the group's domiciliary regulator and its independent public accountants of the solvency of each underwriter member of the group.

(3) The trust fund for a group of incorporated insurers under common administration, whose members possess aggregate policyholder surplus of \$10 billion (calculated and reported in substantially the same manner as prescribed by the annual statement instructions and Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners) and which has continuously transacted an insurance business outside the United States for at least three years immediately prior to making application for accreditation, shall consist of funds in trust in an amount not less than the assuming insurers' liabilities attributable to business ceded by United States ceding insurers to any members of the group pursuant to reinsurance contracts issued in the name of such group and, in addition, the group shall maintain a joint trustee surplus of which \$100 million shall be held jointly for the benefit of United States ceding insurers of any member of the group. The group shall file a properly executed Form AR-1 as evidence of the submission to this state's authority to examine the books and records of any of its members and shall certify that any member examined will bear the expense of any such examination. The group shall make available to the commissioner annual certifications by the members' domiciliary regulators and their independent public accountants of the solvency of each member of the group.

(4) At any time after the assuming insurer has permanently discontinued underwriting new business secured by the trust for at least three full years, the commissioner with principal regulatory oversight of the trust may authorize a reduction in the required trustee surplus, but only after a finding, based on an assessment of the risk, that the new required surplus level is adequate for the protection of United States ceding insurers, policyholders and claimants in light of reasonably foreseeable adverse loss development. The risk assessment may involve an actuarial review, including an independent analysis of reserves and cash flows, and shall consider all material risk factors, including, when applicable, the lines of business involved, the stability of the incurred loss estimates and the effect of the surplus requirements on the assuming insurer's liquidity or solvency. The minimum required trustee surplus may not be reduced to an amount less than 30 percent of the assuming insurer's liabilities attributable to reinsurance ceded by United States ceding insurers covered by the trust.

*c.* The trust shall be established in a form approved by the commissioner. The trust instrument shall provide that:

(1) Contested claims shall be valid and enforceable out of funds in trust to the extent remaining unsatisfied 30 days after entry of the final order of any court of competent jurisdiction in the United States.

(2) Legal title to the assets of the trust shall be vested in the trustee for the benefit of the grantor's United States policyholders and ceding insurers, their assigns and successors in trust.

(3) The trust shall be subject to examination as determined by the commissioner.

(4) The trust shall remain in effect for as long as the assuming insurer, or any member or former member of a group of insurers, shall have outstanding obligations under reinsurance agreements subject to the trust.

(5) No later than February 28 of each year the trustees of the trust shall report to the commissioner in writing setting forth the balance in the trust and listing the trust's investments at the preceding year end, and shall certify the date of termination of the trust, if so planned, or certify that the trust shall not expire prior to the next following December 31.

(6) No amendment to the trust shall be effective unless reviewed and approved in advance by the commissioner.

**5.33(7) *Certified reinsurers.***

*a.* The commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer that has been certified as a reinsurer in this state at all times for which statutory financial statement credit for reinsurance is claimed under this subrule. The credit allowed shall be based upon the security held by or on behalf of the ceding insurer in accordance with a rating assigned to the certified reinsurer by the commissioner. The security shall be in a form consistent with subrules 5.33(10), 5.33(11) and 5.33(12) of this rule and 2013 Iowa Acts, Senate File 182, sections 2(5) and 3. The amount of security required in order for full credit to be allowed shall correspond with the following requirements:

(1) Ratings/security.

Ratings	Security Required
Secure – 1	0%
Secure – 2	10%
Secure – 3	20%
Secure – 4	50%
Secure – 5	75%
Vulnerable – 6	100%

(2) Affiliated reinsurance transactions shall receive the same opportunity for reduced security requirements as all other reinsurance transactions.

(3) The commissioner shall require the certified reinsurer to post 100 percent, for the benefit of the ceding insurer or its estate, security upon the entry of an order of rehabilitation, liquidation or conservation against the ceding insurer.

(4) In order to facilitate the prompt payment of claims, a certified reinsurer shall not be required to post security for catastrophe recoverables for a period of one year from the date of the first instance of a liability reserve entry by the ceding company as a result of a loss from a catastrophic occurrence as recognized by the commissioner. When determining what constitutes a catastrophic occurrence, the commissioner will consult with the NAIC and consider both natural and human events. The one-year deferral period is contingent upon the certified reinsurer's continuing to pay claims in a timely manner. Reinsurance recoverables for only the following lines of business as reported on the NAIC annual financial statement related specifically to the catastrophic occurrence will be included in the deferral:

1. Line 1: Fire
2. Line 2: Allied Lines
3. Line 3: Farmowners multiple peril
4. Line 4: Homeowners multiple peril
5. Line 5: Commercial multiple peril
6. Line 9: Inland Marine
7. Line 12: Earthquake

## 8. Line 21: Auto physical damage

(5) Credit for reinsurance under this subrule shall apply only to reinsurance contracts entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of the certification of the assuming insurer. Any reinsurance contract entered into prior to the effective date of the certification of the assuming insurer that is subsequently amended after the effective date of the certification of the assuming insurer, or a new reinsurance contract, covering any risk for which collateral was provided previously, shall only be subject to this subrule with respect to losses incurred and reserves reported from and after the effective date of the amendment or new contract.

(6) Nothing in this subrule shall prohibit the parties to a reinsurance agreement from agreeing to provisions establishing security requirements that exceed the minimum security requirements established for certified reinsurers under this subrule.

*b. Certification procedure.*

(1) The commissioner shall post notice on the division's Web site promptly upon receipt of any application for certification, including instructions on how members of the public may respond to the application. The commissioner may not take final action on the application until at least 30 days after posting the notice required by this subparagraph.

(2) The commissioner shall issue written notice to an assuming insurer that has made application and been approved as a certified reinsurer. Included in such notice shall be the rating assigned the certified reinsurer in accordance with paragraph 5.33(7) "a." The commissioner shall publish a list of all certified reinsurers and their ratings.

(3) In order to be eligible for certification, the assuming insurer shall meet the following requirements:

1. The assuming insurer must be domiciled and licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in a qualified jurisdiction, as determined by the commissioner pursuant to paragraph 5.33(7) "c."

2. The assuming insurer must maintain capital and surplus, or their equivalents, of no less than \$250 million calculated in accordance with paragraph 5.33(7) "b"(4)"8." This requirement may also be satisfied by an association including incorporated and individual unincorporated underwriters having minimum capital and surplus equivalents (net of liabilities) of at least \$250 million and a central fund containing a balance of at least \$250 million.

3. The assuming insurer must maintain financial strength ratings from two or more rating agencies deemed acceptable by the commissioner. These ratings shall be based on interactive communication between the rating agency and the assuming insurer and shall not be based solely on publicly available information. These financial strength ratings will be one factor used by the commissioner in determining the rating that is assigned to the assuming insurer. Acceptable rating agencies include the following:

- Standard & Poor's;
- Moody's Investors Service;
- Fitch Ratings;
- A.M. Best Company; or
- Any other nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

4. The certified reinsurer must comply with any other requirements reasonably imposed by the commissioner.

(4) Each certified reinsurer shall be rated on a legal entity basis, with due consideration being given to the group rating where appropriate, except that an association including incorporated and individual unincorporated underwriters that has been approved to do business as a single certified reinsurer may be evaluated on the basis of its group rating. Factors that may be considered as part of the evaluation process include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The certified reinsurer's financial strength rating from an acceptable rating agency. The maximum rating that a certified reinsurer may be assigned will correspond to its financial strength rating

as outlined in the table below. The commissioner shall use the lowest financial strength rating received from an approved rating agency in establishing the maximum rating of a certified reinsurer. Failure to obtain or maintain at least two financial strength ratings from acceptable rating agencies will result in loss of eligibility for certification.

Ratings	Best	S&P	Moody's	Fitch
Secure – 1	A++	AAA	Aaa	AAA
Secure – 2	A+	AA+, AA, AA-	Aa1, Aa2, Aa3	AA+, AA, AA-
Secure – 3	A	A+, A	A1, A2	A+, A
Secure – 4	A-	A-	A3	A-
Secure – 5	B++, B+	BBB+, BBB, BBB-	Baa1, Baa2, Baa3	BBB+, BBB, BBB-
Vulnerable – 6	B, B-, C++, C+, C, C-, D, E, F	BB+, BB, BB-, B+, B, B-, CCC, CC, C, D, R	Ba1, Ba2, Ba3, B1, B2, B3, Caa, Ca, C	BB+, BB, BB-, B+, B, B-, CCC+, CC, CCC-, DD

2. The business practices of the certified reinsurer in dealing with its ceding insurers, including its record of compliance with reinsurance contractual terms and obligations.

3. For certified reinsurers domiciled in the United States, a review of the most recent applicable NAIC Annual Statement Blank, either Schedule F (for property/casualty reinsurers) or Schedule S (for life and health reinsurers).

4. For certified reinsurers not domiciled in the United States, a review annually of Form CR-F (for property/casualty reinsurers) or Form CR-S (for life and health reinsurers) (Forms CR-F and CR-S are available from the division).

5. The reputation of the certified reinsurer for prompt payment of claims under reinsurance agreements, based on an analysis of ceding insurers' Schedule F reporting of overdue reinsurance recoverables, including the proportion of obligations that are more than 90 days past due or are in dispute, with specific attention given to obligations payable to companies that are in administrative supervision or receivership.

6. Regulatory actions against the certified reinsurer.

7. The report of the independent auditor on the financial statements of the insurance enterprise, on the basis described in paragraph 5.33(7) "b"(4)"8."

8. For certified reinsurers not domiciled in the United States, audited financial statements (audited United States GAAP basis if available; audited IFRS basis statements are allowed but must include an audited footnote reconciling equity and net income to a United States GAAP basis; or, with the permission of the state insurance commissioner, audited IFRS statements with reconciliation to United States GAAP certified by an officer of the company), regulatory filings, and actuarial opinion (as filed with the non-United States jurisdiction supervisor). Upon the initial application for certification, the commissioner will consider audited financial statements for the last three years filed with the certified reinsurer's non-United States jurisdiction supervisor.

9. The liquidation priority of obligations to a ceding insurer in the certified reinsurer's domiciliary jurisdiction in the context of an insolvency proceeding.

10. A certified reinsurer's participation in any solvent scheme of arrangement, or similar procedure, which involves United States ceding insurers. The commissioner shall receive prior notice from a certified reinsurer that proposes participation by the certified reinsurer in a solvent scheme of arrangement.

11. Any other information deemed relevant by the commissioner.

(5) Based on the analysis conducted under paragraph 5.33(7) "b"(4)"5" of a certified reinsurer's reputation for prompt payment of claims, the commissioner may make appropriate adjustments in the

security that the certified reinsurer is required to post to protect its liabilities to United States ceding insurers, provided that the commissioner shall, at a minimum, increase the security that the certified reinsurer is required to post by one rating level under paragraph 5.33(7) “b”(4)“1” if the commissioner finds that:

1. More than 15 percent of the certified reinsurer’s ceding insurance clients have overdue reinsurance recoverables on paid losses of 90 days or more which are not in dispute and which exceed \$100,000 for each ceding; or
2. The aggregate amount of reinsurance recoverables on paid losses which are not in dispute that are overdue by 90 days or more exceeds \$50 million.

(6) The assuming insurer must submit a properly executed Form CR-1 as evidence of its submission to the jurisdiction of this state, appointment of the commissioner as an agent for service of process in this state, and agreement to provide security for 100 percent of the assuming insurer’s liabilities attributable to reinsurance ceded by United States ceding insurers if the assuming insurer resists enforcement of a final United States judgment. The commissioner shall not certify any assuming insurer that is domiciled in a jurisdiction that the commissioner has determined does not adequately and promptly enforce final United States judgments or arbitration awards.

(7) The certified reinsurer must agree to meet applicable information filing requirements as determined by the commissioner, both with respect to an initial application for certification and on an ongoing basis. All information submitted by certified reinsurers which is not otherwise public information subject to disclosure shall be exempted from disclosure under Iowa Code chapter 22 and shall be withheld from public disclosure. The applicable information filing requirements are as follows:

1. Notification within ten days of any regulatory actions taken against the certified reinsurer, any change in the provisions of its domiciliary license or any change in rating by an approved rating agency, including a statement describing such changes and the reasons therefor.
2. Annually, Form CR-F or CR-S, as applicable.
3. Annually, the report of the independent auditor on the financial statements of the insurance enterprise, on the basis described in paragraph 5.33(7) “b”(7)“4.”
4. Annually, audited financial statements (audited United States GAAP basis if available; audited IFRS basis statements are allowed but must include an audited footnote reconciling equity and net income to a United States GAAP basis; or, with the permission of the state insurance commissioner, audited IFRS statements with reconciliation to United States GAAP certified by an officer of the company), regulatory filings, and actuarial opinion (as filed with the certified reinsurer’s supervisor). Upon the initial certification, audited financial statements for the last three years filed with the certified reinsurer’s supervisor.
5. At least annually, an updated list of all disputed and overdue reinsurance claims regarding reinsurance assumed from United States domestic ceding insurers.
6. A certification from the certified reinsurer’s domestic regulator that the certified reinsurer is in good standing and maintains capital in excess of the jurisdiction’s highest regulatory action level.
7. Any other information that the commissioner may reasonably require.

(8) Change in rating or revocation of certification.

1. In the case of a downgrade by a rating agency or other disqualifying circumstance, the commissioner shall upon written notice assign a new rating to the certified reinsurer in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5.33(7) “b”(4)“1.”

2. The commissioner shall have the authority to suspend, revoke, or otherwise modify a certified reinsurer’s certification at any time if the certified reinsurer fails to meet its obligations or security requirements under this subrule, or if other financial or operating results of the certified reinsurer, or documented significant delays in payment by the certified reinsurer, lead the commissioner to reconsider the certified reinsurer’s ability or willingness to meet its contractual obligations.

3. If the rating of a certified reinsurer is upgraded by the commissioner, the certified reinsurer may meet the security requirements applicable to its new rating on a prospective basis, but the commissioner

shall require the certified reinsurer to post security under the previously applicable security requirements as to all contracts in force on or before the effective date of the upgraded rating. If the rating of a certified reinsurer is downgraded by the commissioner, the commissioner shall require the certified reinsurer to meet the security requirements applicable to its new rating for all business it has assumed as a certified reinsurer.

4. Upon revocation of the certification of a certified reinsurer by the commissioner, the assuming insurer shall be required to post security in accordance with subrule 5.33(9) of this rule in order for the ceding insurer to continue to take credit for reinsurance ceded to the assuming insurer. If funds continue to be held in trust in accordance with subrule 5.33(6) of this rule, the commissioner may allow additional credit equal to the ceding insurer's pro rata share of such funds, discounted to reflect the risk of uncollectibility and anticipated expenses of trust administration. Notwithstanding the change of a certified reinsurer's rating or revocation of its certification, a domestic insurer that has ceded reinsurance to that certified reinsurer may not be denied credit for reinsurance for a period of three months for all reinsurance ceded to that certified reinsurer, unless the reinsurance is found by the commissioner to be at high risk of uncollectibility.

c. Qualified jurisdictions.

(1) If, upon conducting an evaluation under this subrule with respect to the reinsurance supervisory system of any non-United States assuming insurer, the commissioner determines that the jurisdiction qualifies to be recognized as a qualified jurisdiction, the commissioner shall publish notice and evidence of such recognition in an appropriate manner. The commissioner may establish a procedure to withdraw recognition of those jurisdictions that are no longer qualified.

(2) In order to determine whether the domiciliary jurisdiction of a non-United States assuming insurer is eligible to be recognized as a qualified jurisdiction, the commissioner shall evaluate the reinsurance supervisory system of the non-United States jurisdiction, both initially and on an ongoing basis, and consider the rights, benefits and the extent of reciprocal recognition afforded by the non-United States jurisdiction to reinsurers licensed and domiciled in the United States. The commissioner shall determine the appropriate approach for evaluating the qualifications of such jurisdictions, and create and publish a list of jurisdictions whose reinsurers may be approved by the commissioner as eligible for certification. A qualified jurisdiction must agree to share information and cooperate with the commissioner with respect to all certified reinsurers domiciled within that jurisdiction. Additional factors to be considered in determining whether to recognize a qualified jurisdiction, in the discretion of the commissioner, include but are not limited to the following:

1. The framework under which the assuming insurer is regulated.
2. The structure and authority of the domiciliary regulator with regard to solvency regulation requirements and financial surveillance.
3. The substance of financial and operating standards for assuming insurers in the domiciliary jurisdiction.
4. The form and substance of financial reports required to be filed or made publicly available by reinsurers in the domiciliary jurisdiction and the accounting principles used.
5. The domiciliary regulator's willingness to cooperate with United States regulators in general and the commissioner in particular.
6. The history of performance by assuming insurers in the domiciliary jurisdiction.
7. Any documented evidence of substantial problems with the enforcement of final United States judgments in the domiciliary jurisdiction. A jurisdiction will not be considered to be a qualified jurisdiction if the commissioner has determined that it does not adequately and promptly enforce final United States judgments or arbitration awards.
8. Any relevant international standards or guidance with respect to mutual recognition of reinsurance supervision adopted by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors or successor organization.
9. Any other matters deemed relevant by the commissioner.

(3) A list of qualified jurisdictions shall be published through the NAIC committee process. The commissioner shall consider this list in determining qualified jurisdictions. If the commissioner approves a jurisdiction as qualified that does not appear on the list of qualified jurisdictions, the commissioner shall provide thoroughly documented justification with respect to the criteria provided under paragraphs 5.33(7) “c”(2)“1” to “9.”

(4) United States jurisdictions that meet the requirements for accreditation under the NAIC Financial Standards and Accreditation Program shall be recognized as qualified jurisdictions.

*d. Recognition of certification issued by an NAIC-accredited jurisdiction.*

(1) If an applicant for certification has been certified as a reinsurer in an NAIC-accredited jurisdiction, the commissioner has the discretion to defer to that jurisdiction’s certification, and to defer to the rating assigned by that jurisdiction, if the assuming insurer submits a properly executed Form CR-1 and such additional information as the commissioner requires. The assuming insurer shall be considered to be a certified reinsurer in this state.

(2) Any change in the certified reinsurer’s status or rating in the other jurisdiction shall apply automatically in this state as of the date it takes effect in the other jurisdiction. The certified reinsurer shall notify the commissioner of any change in its status or rating within ten days after receiving notice of the change.

(3) The commissioner may withdraw recognition of the other jurisdiction’s rating at any time and assign a new rating in accordance with paragraph 5.33(7) “b”(7)“1.”

(4) The commissioner may withdraw recognition of the other jurisdiction’s certification at any time, with written notice to the certified reinsurer. Unless the commissioner suspends or revokes the certified reinsurer’s certification in accordance with paragraph 5.33(7) “b”(7)“2,” the certified reinsurer’s certification shall remain in good standing in this state for a period of three months, which shall be extended if additional time is necessary to consider the assuming insurer’s application for certification in this state.

*e. Mandatory funding clause.* In addition to the clauses required under subrule 5.33(13) of this rule, reinsurance contracts entered into or renewed under this subrule shall include a proper funding clause, which requires the certified reinsurer to provide and maintain security in an amount sufficient to avoid the imposition of any financial statement penalty on the ceding insurer under this subrule for reinsurance ceded to the certified reinsurer.

*f. The commissioner shall comply with all reporting and notification requirements that may be established by the NAIC with respect to certified reinsurers and qualified jurisdictions.*

**5.33(8) *Credit for reinsurance required by law.*** The commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of this state, but only with respect to the insurance of risks located in jurisdictions where such reinsurance is required by the applicable law or regulation of that jurisdiction. As used in this subrule, “jurisdiction” means any state, district or territory of the United States and any lawful national government.

**5.33(9) *Reduction from liability for reinsurance ceded to an unauthorized assuming insurer.*** The commissioner shall allow a reduction from liability for reinsurance ceded by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of this state in an amount not exceeding the liabilities carried by the ceding insurer. Such reduction shall be in the amount of funds held by or on behalf of the ceding insurer, including funds held in trust for the exclusive benefit of the ceding insurer, under a reinsurance contract with such assuming insurer as security for the payment of obligations thereunder. Such security must be held in the United States subject to withdrawal solely by, and under the exclusive control of, the ceding insurer or, in the case of a trust, held in a qualified United States financial institution. This security may be in the form of any of the following:

*a. Cash.*

b. Securities listed by the Securities Valuation Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, including those deemed exempt from filing as defined by the Purposes and Procedures Manual of the Securities Valuation Office, and qualifying as admitted assets.

c. Clean, irrevocable, unconditional and “evergreen” letters of credit issued or confirmed by a qualified United States institution, as determined by the commissioner, effective no later than December 31 of the year for which filing is being made, and in the possession of, or in the trust for, the ceding insurer on or before the filing date of its annual statement. Letters of credit meeting applicable standards of issuer acceptability as of the dates of their issuance (or confirmation) shall, notwithstanding the issuing (or confirming) institution’s subsequent failure to meet applicable standards of issuer acceptability, continue to be acceptable as security until their expiration, extension, renewal, modification or amendment, whichever first occurs.

d. Any other form of security acceptable to the commissioner. An admitted asset or a reduction from liability for reinsurance ceded to an unauthorized assuming insurer shall be allowed only when the requirements of this rule are met, as determined by the commissioner.

**5.33(10) *Trust agreements qualified under subrule 5.33(9).***

a. *Definitions.* As used in this rule:

“*Beneficiary*” means the entity for whose sole benefit the trust has been established and any successor of the beneficiary by operation of law. If a court of law appoints a successor in interest to the named beneficiary, then the named beneficiary includes and is limited to the court-appointed domiciliary receiver (including conservator, rehabilitator or liquidator).

“*Grantor*” means the entity that has established a trust for the sole benefit of the beneficiary. When established in conjunction with a reinsurance agreement, the grantor is the unlicensed, unaccredited assuming insurer.

“*Obligations*” means:

1. Reinsured losses and allocated loss expenses paid by the ceding company, but not recovered from the assuming insurer;
2. Reserves for reinsured losses reported and outstanding;
3. Reserves for reinsured losses incurred but not reported;
4. Reserves for allocated reinsured loss expenses and unearned premiums.

“*Qualified United States financial institution*” means an institution meeting the requirements of rule 191—32.4(508), except as permitted otherwise by the commissioner.

b. *Required conditions:*

(1) The trust agreement shall be entered into between the beneficiary, the grantor and a trustee which shall be a qualified United States financial institution as determined by the commissioner.

(2) The trust agreement shall create a trust account into which assets shall be deposited.

(3) All assets in the trust account shall be held by the trustee at the trustee’s office in the United States, except that a bank may apply for the commissioner’s permission to use a foreign branch office of such bank as trustee for trust agreements established pursuant to this subrule. If the commissioner approves the use of such foreign branch office as trustee, then its use must be approved by the beneficiary in writing and the trust agreement must provide that the written notice described in subparagraph 5.33(10)“b”(4) must also be presentable, as a matter of legal right, at the trustee’s principal office in the United States.

(4) The trust agreement shall provide that:

1. The beneficiary shall have the right to withdraw assets from the trust account at any time, without notice to the grantor, subject only to written notice from the beneficiary to the trustee;
2. No other statement or document is required to be presented in order to withdraw assets, except that the beneficiary may be required to acknowledge receipt of withdrawn assets;

3. It is not subject to any conditions or qualifications outside of the trust agreement;  
4. It shall not contain references to any other agreements or documents except as provided for under subparagraph 5.33(10)“b”(11).

- (5) The trust agreement shall be established for the sole benefit of the beneficiary.  
(6) The trust agreement shall require the trustee to:
1. Receive assets and hold all assets in a safe place;
  2. Determine that all assets are in such form that the beneficiary, or the trustee upon direction by the beneficiary, may whenever necessary negotiate any such assets, without consent or signature from the grantor or any other person or entity;
  3. Furnish to the grantor and the beneficiary a statement of all assets in the trust account upon its inception and at intervals no less frequent than the end of each calendar quarter;
  4. Notify the grantor and the beneficiary, within ten days, of any deposits to or withdrawals from the trust account;
  5. Upon written demand of the beneficiary, immediately take any and all steps necessary to transfer absolutely and unequivocally all right, title and interest in the assets held in the trust account to the beneficiary and deliver physical custody of the assets to the beneficiary;
  6. Allow no substitutions or withdrawals of assets from the trust account, except on written instructions from the beneficiary, except that the trustee may, without the consent of but with notice to the beneficiary, upon call or maturity of any trust asset, withdraw such asset upon condition that the proceeds are paid into the trust account.

(7) The trust agreement shall provide that at least 30 days, but not more than 45 days, prior to termination of the trust account, written notification of termination shall be delivered by the trustee to the beneficiary.

(8) The trust agreement shall be made subject to and governed by the laws of the state in which the trust is established.

(9) The trust agreement shall prohibit invasion of the trust corpus for the purpose of paying compensation to, or reimbursing the expenses of, the trustee.

(10) The trust agreement shall provide that the trustee shall be liable for its own negligence, willful misconduct or lack of good faith.

(11) Notwithstanding other provisions of this rule, when a trust agreement is established in conjunction with a reinsurance agreement covering risks other than life, annuities and accident and health, where it is customary practice to provide a trust agreement for a specific purpose, such a trust agreement may, notwithstanding any other conditions in this rule, provide that the ceding insurer shall undertake to use and apply amounts drawn upon the trust account, without diminution because of the insolvency of the ceding insurer or the assuming insurer, for the following purposes:

1. To pay or reimburse the ceding insurer for the assuming insurer's share under the specific reinsurance agreement regarding any losses and allocated loss expenses paid by the ceding insurer, but not recovered from the assuming insurer, or for unearned premiums due to the ceding insurer if not otherwise paid by the assuming insurer;

2. To make payment to the assuming insurer of any amounts held in the trust account that exceed 102 percent of the actual amount required to fund the assuming insurer's obligations under the specific reinsurance agreement;

3. Where the ceding insurer has received notification of termination of the trust account and where the assuming insurer's entire obligations under the specific reinsurance agreement remain unliquidated and undischarged ten days prior to the termination date, to withdraw amounts equal to the obligations and deposit those amounts in a separate account, in the name of the ceding insurer, in any qualified United States financial institution apart from its general assets, in trust for such uses and purposes specified in subparagraph 5.33(10)“d”(1) as may remain executory after such withdrawal and for any period after the termination date.

(12) The reinsurance agreement entered into in conjunction with the trust agreement may, but need not, contain the provisions required by subparagraph 5.33(10) “d”(1) so long as these required conditions are included in the trust agreement.

(13) Either the reinsurance agreement or the trust agreement must stipulate that assets deposited in the trust account shall be valued according to their current fair market value and shall consist only of cash in United States dollars, certificates of deposit issued by a United States bank and payable in United States dollars, and investments permitted by Iowa law or any combination of the above, provided investments in or issued by an entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with either the grantor or the beneficiary of the trust shall not exceed 5 percent of total investments. The agreement may further specify the types of investments to be deposited. If the reinsurance agreement covers life, annuities or accident and health risks, then the provisions required by this subparagraph must be included in the reinsurance agreement.

*c. Permitted conditions.*

(1) The trust agreement may provide that the trustee may resign upon delivery of a written notice of resignation, effective not less than 90 days after receipt by the beneficiary and grantor of the notice, and that the trustee may be removed by the grantor by delivery to the trustee and the beneficiary of a written notice of removal, effective not less than 90 days after receipt by the trustee and the beneficiary of the notice, provided that no such resignation or removal shall be effective until a successor trustee has been duly appointed and approved by the beneficiary and the grantor and all assets in the trust have been duly transferred to the new trustee.

(2) The grantor may have the full and unqualified right to vote any shares of stock in the trust account and to receive from time to time payments of any dividends or interest upon any shares of stock or obligations included in the trust account. Any such interest or dividends shall be either forwarded promptly upon receipt to the grantor or deposited in a separate account established in the grantor’s name.

(3) The trustee may be given authority to invest, and accept substitutions of, any funds in the account, provided that no investment or substitution shall be made without prior approval of the beneficiary, unless the trust agreement specifies categories of investments acceptable to the beneficiary and authorizes the trustee to invest funds and to accept substitutions which the trustee determines are at least equal in market value to the assets withdrawn and that are consistent with the restrictions in 5.33(10) “d”(1) “2.”

(4) The trust agreement may provide that the beneficiary may at any time designate a party to which all or part of the trust assets are to be transferred. Such transfer may be conditioned upon the trustee receiving, prior to or simultaneously, other specified assets.

(5) The trust agreement may provide that, upon termination of the trust account, all assets not previously withdrawn by the beneficiary shall, with written approval by the beneficiary, be delivered over to the grantor.

*d. Additional conditions applicable to reinsurance agreements.*

(1) A reinsurance agreement, which is entered into in conjunction with a trust agreement and the establishment of a trust account, may contain provisions that:

1. Require the assuming insurer to enter into a trust agreement and to establish a trust account for the benefit of the ceding insurer, and specifying what the agreement is to cover;

2. Stipulate that assets deposited in the trust account shall be valued according to their current fair market value and shall consist only of cash (United States legal tender), certificates of deposit (issued by a United States bank and payable in United States legal tender), and investments of the types permitted by the laws of this state for domestic insurers, or any combination of the above provided that such investments are issued by an institution that is not the parent, subsidiary or affiliate of either the grantor or the beneficiary. The reinsurance agreement may further specify the types of investments to be deposited. Where a trust agreement is entered into in conjunction with a reinsurance agreement covering risks other than life, annuities, and accident and health, then the trust agreement may contain the provisions required by this paragraph in lieu of including such provisions in the reinsurance agreement;

3. Require the assuming insurer, prior to depositing assets with the trustee, to execute assignments or endorsements in blank, or to transfer legal title to the trustee of all shares, obligations, or any assets requiring assignments, in order that the ceding insurer, or the trustee upon the direction of the ceding insurer, may whenever necessary negotiate these assets without consent or signature from the assuming insurer or any other entity;

4. Require that all settlements of account between the ceding insurer and the assuming insurer be made in cash or its equivalent;

5. Stipulate that the assuming insurer and the ceding insurer agree that the assets in the trust account, established pursuant to the provisions of the reinsurance agreement, may be withdrawn by the ceding insurer at any time, notwithstanding any other provisions in the reinsurance agreement, and shall be utilized and applied by the ceding insurer or its successors in interest by operation of law, including without limitation any liquidator, rehabilitator, receiver or conservator of such company, without diminution because of insolvency on the part of the ceding insurer or the assuming insurer, only for the following purposes:

- To reimburse the ceding insurer for the assuming insurer's share of premiums returned to the owners of policies reinsured under the reinsurance agreement because of cancellations of such policies;
- To reimburse the ceding insurer for the assuming insurer's share of surrenders and benefits or losses paid by the ceding insurer pursuant to the provisions of the policies reinsured under the reinsurance agreement;
- To fund an account with the ceding insurer in an amount at least equal to the deduction, for reinsurance ceded, from the ceding insurer liabilities for policies ceded under the agreement. The account shall include, but not be limited to, amounts for policy reserves, claims and losses incurred (including losses incurred but not reported), loss adjustment expenses and unearned premium reserves;
- To pay any other amounts the ceding insurer claims are due under the reinsurance agreement.

(2) The reinsurance agreement may also contain provisions that:

1. Give the assuming insurer the right to seek approval from the ceding insurer to withdraw from the trust account all or any part of the trust assets and transfer those assets to the assuming insurer, provided:

- The assuming insurer shall, at the time of withdrawal, replace the withdrawn assets with other qualified assets having a market value equal to the market value of the assets withdrawn so as to maintain at all times the deposit in the required amount, or
- After withdrawal and transfer, the market value of the trust account is not less than 102 percent of the required amount.

The ceding insurer shall not unreasonably or arbitrarily withhold its approval.

2. Provide for:

- The return of any amount withdrawn in excess of the actual amounts required to comply with 5.33(10) "d"(1)"5," first three bulleted paragraphs, or in the case of 5.33(10) "d"(1)"5," fourth bulleted paragraph, any amounts that are subsequently determined not to be due; and
- Interest payments, at a rate not in excess of the prime rate of interest, on the amounts held pursuant to 5.33(10) "d"(1)"5," third bulleted paragraph.

3. Permit the award by any arbitration panel or court of competent jurisdiction of:

- Interest at a rate different from that provided in 5.33(10) "d"(2)"2";
- Court of arbitration costs;
- Attorney's fees;
- Any other reasonable expenses.

(3) Financial reporting. A trust agreement may be used to reduce any liability for reinsurance ceded to an unauthorized assuming insurer in financial statements required to be filed with this division in compliance with the provision of this rule when established on or before the date of filing of the financial statement of the ceding insurer. Further, the reduction for the existence of an acceptable trust

account may be up to the current fair market value of acceptable assets available to be withdrawn from the trust account at that time, but such reduction shall be no greater than the specific obligations under the reinsurance agreement that the trust account was established to secure.

(4) Existing agreements. Any trust agreement or underlying reinsurance agreement in existence prior to January 1, 1992, will continue to be acceptable until January 1, 1993, at which time the agreements will have to be in full compliance with this rule for the trust agreement to be acceptable.

(5) The failure of any trust agreement to specifically identify the beneficiary as defined in paragraph 5.33(10) “a” shall not be construed to affect any actions or rights which the commissioner may take or possess pursuant to the provisions of the laws of this state.

**5.33(11) *Letters of credit qualified under subrule 5.33(9).***

*a.* The letter of credit must be clean, irrevocable and unconditional and issued or confirmed by a qualified United States financial institution. The letter of credit shall contain an issue date and date of expiration and shall stipulate that the beneficiary need only draw a sight draft under the letter of credit and present it to obtain funds and that no other document need be presented. The letter of credit shall also indicate that it is not subject to any condition or qualifications outside of the letter of credit. In addition, the letter of credit itself shall not contain reference to any other agreements, documents or entities, except as provided in subparagraph 5.33(11) “i”(1). As used in this paragraph, “beneficiary” means the domestic insurer for whose benefit the letter of credit has been established and any successor of the beneficiary by operation of law. If a court of law appoints a successor in interest to the named beneficiary, then the named beneficiary includes and is limited to the court-appointed domiciliary receiver (including conservator, rehabilitator or liquidator).

*b.* The heading of the letter of credit may include a boxed section which contains the name of the applicant and other appropriate notations to provide a reference for the letter of credit. The boxed section shall be clearly marked to indicate that such information is for internal identification purposes only.

*c.* The letter of credit shall contain a statement to the effect that the obligation of the qualified United States financial institution under the letter of credit is in no way contingent upon reimbursement with respect thereto.

*d.* The term of the letter of credit shall be for at least one year and shall contain an “evergreen clause” which prevents the expiration of the letter of credit without due notice from the issuer. The “evergreen clause” shall provide for a period of no less than 30 days’ notice prior to expiry date or nonrenewal.

*e.* The letter of credit shall state whether it is subject to and governed by the laws of this state or the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits of the International Chamber of Commerce Publication 600 (UCP 600) or International Standby Practices of the International Chamber of Commerce Publication 590 (ISP98), or any successor publication, and all drafts drawn thereunder shall be presentable at an office in the United States of a qualified United States financial institution.

*f.* If the letter of credit is made subject to the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits of the International Chamber of Commerce Publication 500, or any successor publication, then the letter of credit shall specifically address and make provision for an extension of time to draw against the letter of credit in the event that one or more of the occurrences specified in Article 17 of Publication 500 or any other successor publication, occur.

*g.* The letter of credit shall be issued or confirmed by a qualified United States financial institution authorized pursuant to the organic laws of its chartering jurisdiction to issue letters of credit.

*h.* If the letter of credit is not issued by a qualified United States financial institution authorized to issue letters of credit, the following additional requirements shall be met:

(1) The issuing United States financial institution shall formally designate a qualified United States financial institution as its agent for the receipt and payment of the drafts;

(2) The “evergreen clause” shall provide for 30 days’ notice prior to expiry date for nonrenewal.

*i.* Reinsurance agreement provisions.

(1) The reinsurance agreement in conjunction with which the letter of credit is obtained may contain provisions which:

1. Require the assuming insurer to provide letters of credit to the ceding insurer and specify what they are to cover;
2. Stipulate that the assuming insurer and ceding insurer agree that the letter of credit provided by the assuming insurer pursuant to the provisions of the reinsurance agreement may be drawn upon at any time, notwithstanding any other provisions in the agreement, and shall be utilized by the ceding insurer or its successors in interest only for one or more of the following reasons:
  - To reimburse the ceding insurer for the assuming insurer's share of premiums returned to the owners of policies reinsured under the reinsurance agreement on account of cancellations of such policies;
  - To reimburse the ceding insurer for the assuming insurer's share of surrenders and benefits or losses paid by the ceding insurer under the terms and provisions of the policies reinsured under the reinsurance agreement;
  - To fund an account with the ceding insurer in an amount at least equal to the deduction, for reinsurance ceded, from the ceding insurer's liabilities for policies ceded under the agreement (such amount shall include, but not be limited to, amounts for policy reserves, claims and losses incurred and unearned premium reserves);
  - To pay any other amounts the ceding insurer claims are due under the reinsurance agreement.
3. All of the provisions required by paragraph 5.33(11) "i" should be applied without diminution because of insolvency on the part of the ceding insurer or assuming insurer.

(2) Nothing contained in this paragraph shall preclude the ceding insurer and assuming insurer from providing for:

1. An interest payment, at a rate not in excess of the prime rate of interest, on the amounts held pursuant to 5.33(11) "i"(1)"2," third bulleted paragraph.
2. The return of any amounts drawn down on the letters of credit in excess of the actual amounts required for the above or, in the event 5.33(11) "i"(1)"2," fourth bulleted paragraph, is applicable, any amounts that are subsequently determined not to be due.

(3) When a letter of credit is obtained in conjunction with a reinsurance agreement covering risks other than life, annuities and health, where it is customary practice to provide a letter of credit for a specific purpose, then the reinsurance agreement may, in lieu of 5.33(11) "i"(1)"2," require that the parties enter into a "Trust Agreement" which may be incorporated into the reinsurance agreement or be a separate document.

*j.* A letter of credit may not be used to reduce any liability for reinsurance ceded to an unauthorized assuming insurer in financial statements required to be filed with this division unless an acceptable letter of credit with the filing ceding insurer as beneficiary has been issued on or before the date of filing of the financial statement. Further, the reduction for the letter of credit may be up to the amount available under the letter of credit but no greater than the specific obligation under the reinsurance agreement which the letter of credit was intended to secure.

**5.33(12) *Other security.*** A ceding insurer may take credit for unencumbered funds withheld by the ceding insurer in the United States subject to withdrawal solely by the ceding insurer and under its exclusive control.

**5.33(13) *Reinsurance contract.*** Credit will not be granted, nor an asset or reduction from liability allowed, to a ceding insurer for reinsurance effected with assuming insurers meeting the requirements of subrules 5.33(4), 5.33(5), 5.33(6), 5.33(7), 5.33(8), or 5.33(10) after the adoption of this rule unless the reinsurance agreement:

*a.* Includes a proper insolvency clause, which stipulates that reinsurance is payable directly to the liquidator or successor without diminution regardless of the status of the ceding company, pursuant to Iowa Code section 507C.32;

*b.* Includes a provision whereby the assuming insurer, if an unauthorized assuming insurer, has submitted to the jurisdiction of an alternative dispute resolution panel or court of competent jurisdiction within the United States, has agreed to comply with all requirements necessary to give such court or panel jurisdiction, has designated an agent upon whom service of process may be effected, and has agreed to abide by the final decision of such court or panel; and

*c.* Includes a proper reinsurance intermediary clause, if applicable, which stipulates that the credit risk for the intermediary is carried by the assuming insurer.

**5.33(14)** *Contracts affected.* All new and renewal reinsurance transactions entered into after January 1, 2014, shall conform to the requirements of this rule if credit is to be given to the ceding insurer for such reinsurance.

**5.33(15)** *Severability.* If any provision of this rule, or the application of the provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the rule, and the application of the provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 521B.

[ARC 111C, IAB 10/16/13, effective 1/1/14; ARC 1279C, IAB 1/8/14, effective 2/12/14]

<sup>1</sup> Available from Insurance Division